

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed August 2, 2004.

Claim 21 was objected to for improperly depending on claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 21 to depend from claim 19. Thus, Applicant submits that this objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 - 25 were rejected under Section 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,301 to Kodosky. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable in view of the cited reference.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A computer-implemented method for associating a first block diagram with a user interface element, the method comprising:
 - displaying the user interface element;
 - receiving user input specifying the first block diagram to associate with the user interface element, wherein the first block diagram includes a plurality of nodes visually indicating functionality of the user interface element; and
 - associating the first block diagram with the user interface element, wherein the first block diagram is operable to control functionality of the user interface element.

The Kodosky patent shows a graphical programming system which includes a block diagram and a front panel. The front panel includes input controls and output indicators. The input controls on the front panel are used to provide data to the block diagram, and the output controls on the front panel are used to display output data received from the block diagram. Thus, in the Kodosky reference the user interface elements in the front panel are used for providing or displaying data to/from the block diagram.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a method whereby the first block diagram "is operable to control functionality of the user interface element." Thus, in the present claims, unlike the Kodosky patent, the "first block diagram" is not for generating data that is displayed

in the user interface element or for providing output data to the user interface element. Rather, the "first block diagram" controls functionality of the user interface element, e.g., is operable to implement or perform functionality affecting the user interface element in some way. In a typical example, the block diagram referred to in claim 1 may be operable to programmatically affect the appearance of the user interface element, or the manner in which data is displayed.

For example, the Summary of the Invention states that:

"The block diagram associated with the user interface element may control functionality of the user interface element in any way. The block diagram may perform very simple or very complex operations. For example, the block diagram may include a small number of nodes, e.g., one or two, operable to change various user interface characteristics affecting the appearance of the user interface element, e.g., in response to received data. As another example, the block diagram may include a large number of nodes operable to perform complex mathematical operations on data, e.g., to affect the way a stream of data is displayed in a user interface graph indicator."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Kodosky patent does not teach or suggest "wherein the first block diagram includes a plurality of nodes visually indicating functionality of the user interface element" or "associating the first block diagram with the user interface element, wherein the first block diagram is operable to control functionality of the user interface element" (emphasis added).

Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 and those dependent thereon are allowable. Applicant submits that the remaining independent claims and those dependent thereon are also allowable for at least the reasons given above.

New claims

Applicant submits new claims 26 - 39 to more fully and completely claim Applicant's invention.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, and Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-46000/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



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